



WE think it our Duty, after such an Execrable Rebellion as we have lately had, (which by the infinite Mercy of God, and the admirable Prudence and Conduct of the King, was so soon and happily Suppress'd) in some extraordinary manner to express our Abhorrence of it; and our future care and zealous Endeavour to root out (as far as by Law we can) that Pestilent Faction whence it Sprung, and to bring to condign Punishment all those that did in the least Favour, Countenance, or Abet it; for we have by Experience found, that Impenitent harden'd Sectaries, Schismatics, or Rebels (which are but convertible Terms) are no more to be trusted in any Civil Society (without the utmost Caution and Security of the Law) than Beasts of Prey without Chains and Fetters. Wherefore, according to the former Orders and Resolutions of this Court; we will vigorously put in Execution the severest of the Laws now in force, against all Seditious Sectaries and Disaffected Persons to the Government. And we will by Order of this Court, require from them sufficient Security for their quiet and peaceable Behaviour.

And because many of those, that were actually in Arms in the late Rebellion, are not yet Apprehended, and many that did Abet and Contribute towards it, are not yet (we fear) discovered; we will strictly require the Constables and other Officers of every Parish in this County, to present to us, upon their Oaths, exact Lists of all the Inhabitants of their respective Parishes, that have been reputed Phanatical or Disaffected to the Government. And whether from the Twelfth day of June, to the Sixth day of July last, they have been absent from their respective Habitations; as also whether they have held any Correspondency with any Rebels, have shelter'd them, or in the least have Assisted or Contributed towards them; and what Strangers they have had in their Houses since the time above-mentioned. And we will leave Warrants in the hands of all Constables for the searching for, and apprehending all such suspicious Persons.

And forasmuch as Seditious Libels, Scandalous Speeches, and false News, have been the successful Engines with which they have propagated their Hellish Treasons, we resolve severally to punish all the Authors or Publishers of Seditious Libels, and the Spreaders of false News: And for the Encouragement of all such as shall Prosecute or give Evidence against any of them, we will from time to time Reimburse and Defray all the necessary Charge and Expence that they shall be at in such their Prosecutions.

And, whereas it hath appear'd that Non-conformist Ministers, and Conventicle Preachers have been the Mischievous Factors that have for a long time propagated and upheld the Faction, and under pretences of Religion, have seduced the unwary People from their Allegiance and Duty; and that considerable numbers of them were actually in the late Rebellion (fit Chaplains indeed for such a Mushroom King, and fit Spiritual Guides for such lewd Rebels). We resolve to Issue out Warrants from this Court for the Apprehending of all Non-conformist Preachers, that we shall be informed by the Presentments of the head Constables or the Grand Jury, or by our own knowledge have been seen at any time within the space of three Years within this County, as Inhabitants, Sojourners, or Strangers. And whereas we have formerly ordered Forty Shillings as a Reward to any that should Apprehend or secure them, we resolve now, as a farther Encouragement, to give to any Person that shall apprehend or secure any one of them, the sum of Three Pounds.

We have by sad and long Experience found the mischievous and fatal Effects of too much Lenity and Indulgence, which meeting with the Incurable ill Nature of the Sectaries and Phanatics, did certainly beget and nourish this late Impudent Rebellion; which a few gentle strokes of Justice would at first happily have prevented; so that the Sword which hath been Defensively unsheathed, and hath been (thanks to Almighty God) so successful, must for some time be necessarily kept unsheathed, in the Execution of the Laws, till this Generation of Impenitent and Desperate Rebels be all cut off; for our Religion, the Kings Sacred Person, and our Government cannot otherwise be secured.

That the just Resentment His Majesties Justices of Peace for the County of DEVON, have of the late Horrid Rebellion, and that their care for the Safety of His Majesties Sacred Person, the Preservation of the Publick Peace, and the Prevention of the like Detestable Rebellion for the future, may be fuller known, and have better effect, I do Order and Require all the Clergy of my Diocese, in the County of DEVON, deliberately to Publish this Order the next Sunday after it shall be tender'd to them.

T H O. E X O N.

Licensed,

October 15, 1685.
R. L'Estrange.